
PART 1: THE DECLARATION

DECLARATION FOR THE RECORD OF DECISION

**Iron Horse Park
Billerica, Massachusetts
MAD051787323
Operable Unit 3**

A. STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

This decision document presents the selected remedial action for the Iron Horse Park Superfund Site, Operable Unit 3 (OU3)(Site), in Billerica, Massachusetts, which was chosen in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), 42 USC § 9601 *et seq.*, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), and, to the extent practicable, the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR Part 300, as amended. The Director of the Office of Site Remediation and Restoration (OSRR) has been delegated the authority to approve this Record of Decision.

This decision was based on the Administrative Record, which has been developed in accordance with Section 113 (k) of CERCLA, and which is available for review at the Billerica Public Library and at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 OSRR Records Center in Boston, Massachusetts. The Administrative Record Index (Appendix E to the ROD) identifies each of the items comprising the Administrative Record upon which the selection of the remedial action is based.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts concurs with the Selected Remedy

B. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE

The response action selected in this ROD is necessary to protect the public health or welfare or the environment from actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment.

C. DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

This ROD sets forth the selected remedy for OU3 at the Iron Horse Park Superfund Site, which involves the capping (source control) of landfills and contaminated soil areas at six different Areas of Concern (AOCs) and the maintenance of an existing landfill cap at a seventh AOC. Institutional controls, in the form of land use restrictions, will be used to prevent exposures and preserve elements of the remedy. The selected remedy is a comprehensive approach for this operable unit that addresses all current and potential future risks caused by soil

contamination. Specifically, this remedial action includes waste and contamination associated with the **B&M Railroad Landfill**, the **RSI Landfill**, the **B&M Locomotive Shop Disposal Areas**, the **Old B&M Oil/Sludge Recycling Area**, the **Contaminated Soils Area**, the **Asbestos Landfill** and the **Asbestos Lagoons**. The remedial measures will ensure that: soil from the **B&M Locomotive Shop Disposal Area**, the **Old B&M Oil/Sludge Recycling Area** and the **Contaminated Soils Area** will no longer present an unacceptable risk to human health via ingestion of lead; that the **Asbestos Landfill** and the **Asbestos Lagoons** will no longer present a potential human health risk via inhalation of asbestos; and, that the **B&M Railroad Landfill** and the **B&M Locomotive Shop Disposal Area** will no longer present an unacceptable environmental risk from ecological receptors' ingestion and direct contact with cadmium, copper, and lead. An additional expected outcome is that source control actions, specifically capping, will remove the **B&M Railroad Landfill**, the **RSI Landfill**, the **B&M Locomotive Shop Disposal Areas**, the **Old B&M Oil/Sludge Recycling Area**, the **Contaminated Soils Area** and the **Asbestos Lagoons** as ongoing contributors of contamination to local groundwater by volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compound (SVOCs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and inorganics.

The major components of this remedy are

1. Capping of source areas (with the capping standards that apply):
 - At the **B&M Railroad Landfill** - Hazardous Waste Cap - *Region 1 Alternative Cap Design/Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA), Subtitle C*¹
 - At the **RSI Landfill**, **B&M Locomotive Shop Disposal Areas** and the **Asbestos Lagoons** - Solid Waste Cap - *SWDA, Subtitle D*²
 - At the **Old B&M Oil/Sludge Recycling Area** and the **Contaminated Soils Area** - Solid Waste/Asphalt Cap - *Massachusetts DEP Landfill Technical Guidance Manual/Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA), Subtitle D*
 - At the **Asbestos Landfill** - Maintenance of the existing *Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)*³ cap
2. Institutional Controls in the form of land use restrictions to be implemented by responsible parties

¹ As enacted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S. §§ 6921 *et seq.*

² 42 U.S.C. §§ 6941 *et seq.*

³ 15 U.S.C. §§ 2601 *et seq.*

3. Groundwater monitoring to assess effectiveness of source control actions

The total estimated cost of the selected remedy for OU3 is: **\$ 23.53 million**

This OU is one of four operable units at this site. While part of the same superfund site, OU1 (the B&M Wastewater Lagoons) and OU2 (Shaffer Landfill) are distinct areas of the Site, with unique contamination histories and which are essentially independent of other parts of the site with regards to remedial action. The intention of OU3 is to address the remaining source areas, while OU4 will address site-wide groundwater, surface water and sediment. EPA is in the process of gathering site specific toxicity data related to surface water and sediment. The OU4 ROD is scheduled for 2006.

The selected response action addresses low-level threat wastes at the site by: eliminating exposure to human and ecological receptors from contaminated soil and airborne asbestos. This is accomplished through source control actions at the affected AOCs (capping of landfills and contaminated soil areas). In addition, the source control actions will help eliminate the ongoing migration of contaminants from the source areas to groundwater or surface water. Long term monitoring/maintenance and institutional controls will ensure that the remedy remains protective in the future. There are no principal threat wastes at OU3.

D. STATUTORY DETERMINATIONS

The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment, complies with Federal and State requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action (unless justified by a waiver), is cost-effective, and utilizes permanent solutions and alternative treatment (or resource recovery) technologies to the maximum extent practicable.

Based on the size and location of the landfills and contaminated soil areas, EPA concluded that it was impracticable to excavate and treat the chemicals of concern in a cost-effective manner. Thus, the selected remedy does not satisfy the statutory preference for treatment as a principal element of the remedy.

Because this remedy will result in hazardous substances remaining on-site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure (and groundwater and/or land use restrictions are necessary), a review will be conducted within five years after initiation of remedial action to ensure that the remedy continues to provide adequate protection of human health and the environment. Hazardous substances already remain at the Site due to previous actions (OU2 Shaffer Landfill closure). Because of this, the most recent Five-Year Review was completed by EPA in September 2003. The next review will be required by September 2008.

E. SPECIAL FINDINGS

Issuance of this ROD embodies specific determinations made by the Regional Administrator

pursuant to CERCLA and section 404 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 *et seq.*, the remedy is the least damaging practicable alternative for protecting aquatic ecosystems at the site under the standards of 40 CFR Part 230. Specifically, at the **B&M Railroad Landfill** EPA expects impacts to both wetlands and the 100-year floodplain. At the **B&M Railroad Landfill**, the **RSI Landfill**, and the **B&M Locomotive Shop Disposal Areas**, EPA proposes capping the waste in place, which will potentially result in minor to moderate disturbances to wetlands as landfill area is moved back; EPA anticipates potentially moderate loss of floodplain/storage capacity at the **B&M Railroad Landfill** due to increased landfill cap elevation. At the **Asbestos Landfill**, EPA expects temporary and minor wetland disturbance due to fence installation. The potential need for replacement floodplain storage capacity will be addressed during the design process and alteration of wetlands will be addressed through mitigation measures. Due to the location of these AOCs in or near wetlands and/or floodplain areas, EPA cannot identify a less damaging practicable alternative for each AOC which would avoid impacting the wetland and/or floodplain areas while adequately addressing site risks.

E. ROD DATA CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

The following information is included in the Decision Summary section of this Record of Decision. Additional information can be found in the Administrative Record file for this site.

1. Chemicals of concern (COCs) and their respective concentrations
(Table G-1, G-2, G-3, G-8, G-9, G-10)
2. Baseline risk represented by the COCs
(Table G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10)
3. Cleanup levels established for COCs and the basis for the levels
(Table CL-1 and CL-2, pages 56-57)
4. Current and future land and ground-water use assumptions used in the baseline risk assessment and ROD (pages 17-19)
5. Land and groundwater use that will be available at the site as a result of the selected remedy (page 55)
6. Estimated capital, operation and maintenance (O&M), and total present worth costs; discount rate; and the number of years over which the remedy cost estimates are projected (Table L-1 thru L-7)
7. Decisive factor(s) that led to selecting the remedy (page 26)

F. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

This ROD documents the selected remedy for soil at OU3 at the Iron Horse Park Superfund Site. This remedy was selected by the EPA with concurrence of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Concur and recommended for immediate implementation:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

By: Susan Studlien
Susan Studlien
Director
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration
Region 1

Date: 09/30/04